

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08598 121315Z

65-60

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ITF-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 IO-10 /088 W

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R 121111Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4095

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

UNCLAS BANGKOK 8598

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TH, VN

SUBJ: THAI-NORTH VIETNAMESE RELATIONS AND THE SAKON NAKHON
INCIDENT

REF: FBIS BK 120237Z MAY 75

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 12.
FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS ON
THAI-NORTH VIETNAMESE RELATIONS.

"REPORTER: HAVE YOU RECEIVED A REPORT YET ON THE INCIDENT
THAT OCCURRED IN SAKON NAKHON?

KHUKRIT: SO FAR AS I HAVE HEARD, IT WAS NOT VIOLENT, THAT THE
SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL ALREADY. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT CLASHES OR ANY VIOLENCE, SO NOTHING
SHOULD OCCUR.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT THE DEMAND MADE BY PEOPLE FOR ALL VIETNAMESE
TO BE WITHDRAWN WITHIN ONE YEAR'S TIME. COULD THE GOVERNMENT DO
THAT?

KHUKRIT: IT CAN'T BE DONE. WHERE CAN THEY BE TRANSFERRED TO?
THIS IS A MATTER ON WHICH WE MUST HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08598 121315Z

VIETNAM LATER. THE FIRST STEP MUST BE TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY
RELATIONS FIRST, THEN NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE HELD, INCLUDING TALKS

ON THE REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. IT IS TRUE THAT CONTACT COULD BE MADE THROUGH THE RED CROSS, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT SUCCESS COULD BE ACHIEVED. MAKING DEMANDS AND DRAFTING CONDITIONS IS EASY, BUT WHEN THEY HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT, AT TIMES THEY CAN BE CARRIED OUT BUT AT TIMES THEY CANNOT.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THIS INCIDENT OVER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES COULD BE AN ACTION IN RETALIATION AGAINST OUR DECISION FOR AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES TO BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN WITHIN ONE YEAR'S TIME?

KHUKRIT: WHO IS RETALIATING? IN WHAT WAY? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN.

REPORTER: WHO CREATED THE INCIDENT?

KHUKRIT: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE PEOPLE THERE FEEL THAT SINCE THESE VIETNAMESE ARE GOOD WORKERS... THEY MIGHT BE REGARDED AS TAKING OCCUPATIONS AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE THERE. FURTHERMORE, IT SEEMS AS IF THESE VIETNAMESE REFUGGEES KEEP THEMSELVES APART, THAT THEY DO NOT MIX WITH OTHER PEOPLE. THIS CREATES SOMETHING LIKE A VACUUM, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

REPORTER: IT LOOKS VERY SUSPICIOUS WHY SUCH AN INCIDENT SHOULD HAVE ONLY OCCURRED NOW.

KHUKRIT: GOOD HEAVENS* BUT I WONDER ALSO.

REPORTER: WON'T YOU CONSIDER CARRYING OUT INVESTIGATIONS TO ASCERTAIN WHAT MIGHT BE BEHIND THIS INCIDENT?

KHUKRIT: THIS INCIDENT IS ORDINARY, SO WHY SEARCH FOR A REASON. IT IS AN ORDINARY INCIDENT, SO WHY SHOULD THERE BE ANYTHING BEHIND IT?

REPORTER: HAVE YOU ORDERED INVESTIGATIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT CONCERNING WHAT IS BEHIND THIS INCIDENT?

KHUKRIT: NOT EXACTLY AN ORDER, BUT I HAVE MENTIONED TO THE
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 08598 121315Z

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR THAT STUDY SHOULD BE MADE OF THIS INCIDENT TO FIND OUT WHAT REASON THERE COULD BE FOR IT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK I AM, EXPECTING ME TO GIVE ORDERS FOR INVESTIGATIONS UNENDINGLY, OR GIVING ORDERS ON THIS OR ON THAT. GOOD HEAVENS* MASTERS

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